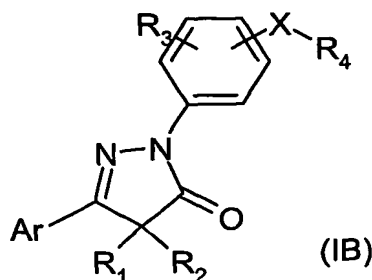
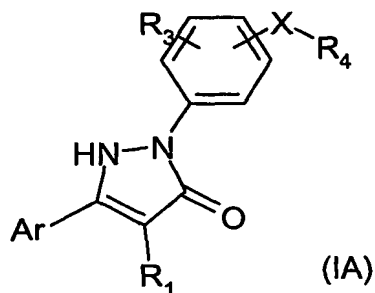


Claims:

1. A compound of formula (IA) or (IB) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt, hydrate or solvate thereof:

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wherein

Ar represents an optionally substituted monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic or
10 heteroaromatic group having from 5 to 10 ring atoms,

R₁ and R₂ independently represent H, or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R₃ represents H; F; Cl; Br; -NO₂; -CN; C₁-C₆ alkyl optionally substituted by F
15 or Cl; or C₁-C₆ alkoxy optionally substituted by F;

R₄ represents a carboxylic acid group (-COOH) or an ester thereof, or
-C(=O)NR₆R₇, -NR₇C(=O)R₆, -NR₇C(=O)OR₆, -NHC(=O)NR₇R₆ or -
NHC(=S)NR₇R₆ wherein

20 R₆ represents H, or a radical of formula -(Alk)_m-Q wherein

m is 0 or 1

Alk is an optionally substituted divalent straight or branched C₁-
25 C₁₂ alkylene, or C₂-C₁₂ alkenylene, or C₂-C₁₂ alkynylene radical
or a divalent C₃-C₁₂ carbocyclic radical, any of which radicals
may be interrupted by one or more -O-, -S- or -N(R₈)- radicals

wherein R_8 represents H or C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_4 alkenyl, C_3 - C_4 alkynyl, or C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, and

5 Q represents H; $-CF_3$; $-OH$; $-SH$; $-NR_8R_8$ wherein each R_8 may be the same or different, or form a ring when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached; an ester group; or an optionally substituted aryl, aryloxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocyclic group; and

10 R_7 represents H or C_1 - C_6 alkyl; or when taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 form a monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms; and

X represents a bond or a divalent radical of formula $-(Z)_n-(Alk)-$ or
15 $-(Alk)-(Z)_n-$ wherein Z represents $-O-$, $-S-$ or $-NH-$, Alk is as defined in relation to R_6 and n is 0 or 1.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_1 in compounds (IA) and each of R_1 and R_2 in compounds (IB) is other than hydrogen.

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3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R_4 represents a carboxylic acid group ($-COOH$) or an ester group of formula $-COOR$ wherein R is methyl, ethyl n- or iso-propyl, n-, sec- or tert-butyl, or benzyl.

25 4. A compound as claimed in claim any of the preceding claims wherein R_6 represents a radical of formula $-(Alk)_m-Q$ wherein m is 1, Alk is $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, or $-CH_2CH(CH_3)CH_2-$, or a divalent cyclopropylene, cyclopentylene or cyclohexylene radical, optionally substituted by OH, oxo, CF_3 , methoxy or ethoxy, and Q represents hydrogen; $-NR_8R_8$ wherein each R_8
30 may be the same or different and selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or isopropyl or tert-butyl; a methyl, ethyl or benzyl ester; or an optionally substituted phenyl, phenoxy, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, furyl, thienyl, piperidyl, or piperazinyl group.

5. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R₇ represents hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, n-, sec- or tert-butyl; or when taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached R₆ and R₇ form a monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms;

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6. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein Ar is optionally substituted phenyl, 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridyl, 2-, or 3-furyl, 2-, or 3-thienyl, benzfur-2-yl, or benzthien-2-yl.

10 7 A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein Ar is substituted by F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy.

8. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 wherein Ar is 3-fluorophenyl, or 2- or 3-furyl.

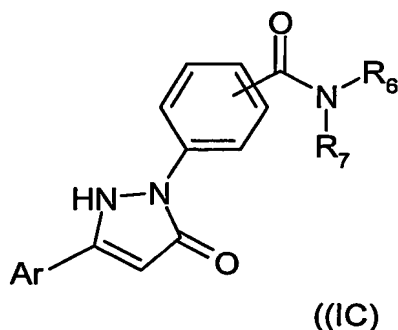
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9. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R₃ is H, F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy.

10. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein X is a bond, or a -CH₂- or -CH₂CH₂- radical.

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11. A compound as claimed in claim 1 which is of formula (IC) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt, hydrate or solvate thereof:



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12. A compound as claimed in claim 11 wherein the radical -C(=O)NR₆R₇ is in the 4-position of the phenyl ring.

13. A compound as claimed in claim 11 or claim 12 wherein R_7 is hydrogen and R_6 is $-AlkNR_8R_8$ wherein the R_8 groups are as defined in claim 1.

5 14. A pharmaceutical or veterinary composition comprising a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13 together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable excipient or carrier.

10 15. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13 for use in the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation.

16. The use of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation.

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17. A method of immunomodulation in mammals, including humans, comprising administration to a mammal in need of such treatment an immunomodulatory effective dose of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13.

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